

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00181 290827Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 SCS-03 L-03 DHA-02 SCA-01 H-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /036 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0181

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, BGEN, IZ
SUBJECT: STARCO PROJECT

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 36, (B) BAGHDAD 166.

1. ACCORDING TO USINT SOURCE ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATED WITH STARCO PROJECT IN BASRA WILL RECEIVE EXIT PERMITS WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. GOI HAS, HOWEVER, ASKED GALE HAROLD AND FIVE OTHER STARCO EMPLOYEES TO REMAIN IN IRAQ LONG ENOUGH TO INVENTORY STARCO ASSETS AND MAKE ORDERLY TURN OVER TO GOI.

2. ACCORDING TO HAROLD, BASRA SEWERAGE BOARD ITENDS TO BRING CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST ROY COBLE, OF CARD CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, AND JAMES CROSBEE, PRESIDENT OF VTN CORPORATION. USINT SOURCE CONFIRMS THAT GOI IS CONSIDERING REQUESTING COBLE'S EXTRADITION AND USING LESS SAVOURY METHODS TO BRING MAAROUF ARIF, STARCO'S IRAQI AGENT, NOW IN EUROPE, BACK TO IRAQ. IN ADDITION TO SUSPECTING COBLE AND MAAROUF OF FRAUD AND EMBEZZLEMENT, THE GOI IS INVESTIGATING TWO MURDERS WHICH AREF IS ALLEGED TO HAVE PERPETRATED. TRIAD, THE BONDING COMPANY FOR STARCO, TRACED COBLE TO THE REGENCY HOTEL IN
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NEW YORK, JANUARY 25.

3. COMMENT: USUAL IRAQI PRACTICE IN CASE OF THIS KIND IS TO DENY EXIT VISAS UNTIL INVESTIGATIONS ARE COMPLETED. IF ALL STARCO EMPLOYEES ARE NOW ISSUED VISAS, IRAQIS PROBABLY INTEND THEIR ACTION AS GESTURE AIMED AT PROMOTION OF GOI-USG COMMERCIAL

COOPERATION. IRAQIS WOULD NO DOUBT APPRECIATE
ANY INFORMATION USDOC CAN PROVIDE ON ROY COBLE
AND ON STARCO'S BONAFIDES. STARCO CASE, ALONG
WITH INTERNATIONAL DISC FIASCO, ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT
HELPING U.S. BUSINESS IMAGE IN IRAQ.
WILEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 29-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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